SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

3rd year
No 45
September 2, 1969

ADDRESS:
HT 1317 B-SN
C/O
FRONALI PHNOM-PENH
Samdech Pann, Phnom-Penh
CAMBODIA

★

DAZIMINA HANOI
19 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL
Missions in foreign countries

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

2 - FEB 1970

Night convoys going up the line

"... VIET NAM HAS THE RIGHT TO BE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, AND IN FACT IT IS SO ALREADY. THE ENTIRE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO MOBILISE ALL THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH, TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY."

(Declaration of Independence of the DRVN)

editorial

SOURCES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S STRENGTH AND SUCCESSES

THE people of all-Viet Nam are celebrating with exultation the 24th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the DRVN on September 2, 1945 from the 80-odd year old French colonial rule and 4-year old Japanese fascist domination.

On that day, President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed to the world, «...**Viet Nam has the right to be a free and independent country, and in fact it is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilise all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty.**"

These words ringing with pride, self-confidence and grim resolve, imparted a remarkable occurence: for the first time in the history of mankind a colonial country rose up single-handed and shattered to pieces a dual yoke. They heralded another significant development, from slavery and utter destitution, a people emerged as masters of their own fate, as lords in their native land, to shape for themselves a genuinely democratic society and a life free from want and care. The President's pronouncement was nothing short of a pledge taken in the name of a score of millions of Vietnamese from the North to the South. Since then it has been for them the source of superhuman strength helping them win through all hardships and obstacles, foil every enemy scheme, face up to enemy atrocities and achieve successes, each greater than the one before.

But the enjoyment of independence and freedom, peace and unity was soon interrupted by a frantic attempt to stage a come-back on the part of the French colonialists, which sent our people, to a man, flying to arms and triggered off a grinding resistance lasting nearly nine long years. Series of humiliating setbacks were inflicted upon the best infantry of the capitalist world, supported by US money and armament and culminated in the epock-making Dien Bien Phu and the Geneva Agreements in 1954 which gave international sanction to Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Again the peace so devoutly wished for was short-lived. US indirect interference with aid to the French colonialists' war of reconquest and US abortive efforts to wreck the Geneva Conference were eventually escalated, in spite of a solemn undertaking to the gathering, into armed intervention, a "special war" and a "local war" in South Viet Nam, coordinated with a war of destruction against the DRVN. US purposes have never been left in doubt: perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam, turn South Viet Nam into a US military base and a new-type colony.

US intolerable aggression exasperated to a degree the South Vietnamese people's "every sacrifice is preferable to a life in servitude under a foreign master" spirit, cemented their solidarity and stiffened their determination to resist. One after another, all US aggressive manoeuvres have been thwarted by the South Vietnamese who seem to have found increasing favour in the eyes of Victory.

The success of the widespread simultaneous and spontaneous popular uprisings stirred up by the wicked Diem tyranny and the emergence of the National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam ushered in a new period in our national history. The Front's Political Programme published two years ago which charted out a wise course for our national salvation

(Continued on page 2)

Saigon bus drivers protest

The bus drivers protest against the dissolution of the public bus service by the Saigon administration which has been going on for over a month is entering a decisive phase.

It broke out on July 6, 1969 after the meeting of representatives of road haulage workers which set up a committee of struggle for the cancelment of Circular No 1/69 by Thieu-Ky-Huong putting the contract for the bus line to bidding. In fact the dissolution of the public bus service had already been decreed at the end of 1968. Since then the bus workers have been grimly opposing the measure and demonstrated their readiness to defend with their blood the public management of the bus service and the workers' right to participate in it. This dissent forced the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate to stay the execution of the decision. But, in pursuance of their dark scheme, they had created no end of difficulties to the bus and motorcyclecab drivers by changing their licenses and parking stations and harrassingly checking their papers, which vexations had touched off series of actions for the abrogation of the decree.

The road haulage union had also written a letter to Tran Van Huong asking for the withdrawal of Circular No 1/69 and dismissal of the puppet Minister of Communications and Public Works.

Ignoring the legitimate claims of the bus drivers and the interests of over 40,000 passengers in Saigon on July 20, Thieu-Ky-Huong again issued a resolution dissolving the public bus service and blatantly firing more than 600 bus workers before giving the service to contractors.

Infuriated by the new move, representatives of bus workers met the press and strongly denounced it on July 28. On the evening of July 29 they called at the Minister of Communications and Public Works to urge its cancellation.

The President of the Saigon trade-unions and Secretary-General of the bus workers' union also sternly condemned the Circular No 1/69 and pointed out that it only "aims at securing big profits for foreign capitalists" as the Minister of Communications and Public Works himself admitted the participation of foreign companies in the bidding.

On August 3, about 1,000 representatives of 118 Saigon unions met to oppose the resolution sacking all the bus workers. They also vigorously objected to law 10/68 forbidding workers' strikes and the decision to dissolve the public bus service. On August 8, the Workers' Federation ordered all unions actively to prepare a sympathetic general strike.

On August 15, 1969, South Viet Nam Liberation Trade Unions issued an appeal to all South Vietnamese workers and labourers to support the bus-drivers' and transport workers' protest. On behalf of tens of workers and labourers, the Da Nang Trade Unions sent a message of sympathy to the Saigon bus drivers.

On the morning of August 16, representatives of the Workers' Federation again warned that all the workers would fight to a finish against the Saigon regime's measure.

On the morning of August 20, over two hundred representatives of the Saigon bus workers held a meeting at the Saigon Trade Unions headquarters. They decided to call a gathering there on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to discuss measures to deal with the situation. Besides, they resolved to launch an action for their August pay which their employers intended to rob them of.

At the meeting, representatives of Trade Unions reported that various branches had set up sympathetic strike committees to back the bus workers.

The workers' unions of Esso company motorcycle-cab company, laundry service for Park Jung Hee mercenaries, Saigon Port... have staged repeated walk out to support their mates.

According to the Saigon press, recently the international League of Functionaries with over 3.5 million members from 65 countries has sent a letter to the Saigon administration to back the bus drivers' claim.

The Thieu-Ky-Huong move has no other end than to pauperize the transport workers and drive them into unemployment, which will facilitate the search for cannon fodder for the American aggressors.

It not only exposes the traitorous nature of the Saigon administration but also robs the South Viet Nam urban toilers of their means of living. It has made hundreds of people jobless at a time when life is extremely hard due to prices' rocketting, and caused serious hindrances to the communication and activities of tens of thousands of civil servants, armymen and poor people in the city.

Sources of the South Vietnamese people's...

(Continued from page 1)

has been exerting a growing impact. It has been serving as a rallying banner and supplying the South Vietnamese with a matchless weapon against the US aggressors. The coming into being a year back of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, an achievement creditable to our national unity policy, further broadened the United Front and expanded the strength of the resistance.

Since Tet 1968, waves upon waves of widespread attacks and uprisings have erupted and driven the enemy into a tighter corner. They have tilted the balance of forces unmistakably in our favour and dispelled all doubt about our final triumph.

The change in the complexion of the war called for the convening in June 1969 of a South Viet Nam People's Congress which appointed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and its Advisory Council. This event and the election of People's Revolutionary Committees at province, town, city, district and village levels put the finishing touches to the structure of popular power in the liberated areas and achieved a most basic objective of the South Viet Nam revolution i.e. to crush enemy rule and set up people's power.

The success of the South Vietnamese people's confrontation with the most atrocious war in mankind's history can be traced to the Front's judicious line, which has found unequivocal expression in its Political Programme. It is also due to the SVN armed forces and people's resolve to uphold the spirit of the August Revolution, live up to the Independence pledge taken 24 years ago and to their unity, stamina and undauntedness. It can be at the same time ascribed to the militant North-South brotherhood, to the Vietnamese regard for independence as the most precious possession of man and to inestimable universal sympathy and support.

THOUGH US increasing dismal failures have portended its ultimate defeat as certainty, it still shuts its eyes to the writing on the wall. At the Paris Conference, its representatives still stick to its imperialist aggressor's guns and refuse to take into consideration the Front's 10 points and to properly reciprocate the Front's and the PRG of the SVN Republic's reasonableness and good will. US recent announcement of the withdrawal of 25,000 troops and Thieu's US-inspired offer of a "concrete political solution" through "free elections" were two transparent moves to placate public opinion, and to counter the legitimate demands of the Vietnamese, American and world peoples. If true respect is to be paid to Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, a settlement to the South Viet Nam issue must imply US unconditional and total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from there, as suggested by the Front's 10 points. Genuine independence and freedom and consequently truly free elections are unthinkable with the presence of the foreign aggressor armies and continuation on office of the Thieu-Ky dictatorship. The latter's proposal in fact urges the capitulation of the patriots in exchange for the right to go to the polls under duress from over a million US-puppet soldiers. It only shows that the US imperialists and their agents are labouring under a delusion about the might of US dollars and hardware. It is also an intolerable challenge to the South Vietnamese and to the Vietnamese as a whole, who are in a winning position.

US-puppet obduracy and duplicity at the conference table and the goings-on on the battlefield supply lurid illustrations of the Nixon Administration's vicious aggressiveness. Behind the smokescreen of proposals and protestations of peace, there is a troop increase, stepped up B-52 bombings, intensified sweeps, extended chemical warfare and a desperate endeavour to keep the Thieu-Ky despotic rule on its feet. The Johnson war has become the Nixon war with only the difference of a higher record degree of ferocity. And the denial of our people's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity continues with unabated intransigence.

IT is relevant to recall here that the Front's 10 points have opened wide an avenue to a solution of the South Viet Nam conflict which pays due regard to its fundamental national rights and an honourable way out of the infamous war for the US. Short of the Nixon team's coming round to the proposed arrangement, the South Vietnamese will continue to act in their imprescribable right to self-defence and resist until all aggressors are forced out of their land.

Their objectives are known: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate national unity. Continuing the August Revolution indomitable tradition and fulfilling the Independence pledge, which once fired the Vietnamese to the Dien Bien Phu victory, they will press their onsets on the US-puppet sanctuaries, with their minds set on bringing to fruition their national and historical mission, a heavy but glorious one indeed.

SOUTH VIET NAM

A PLAF unit prepare to go up.

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day

The NFL, The PRG, The VNANDPF: Let's march forward to *Defeat the US Aggression* *Overthrow Its Lackeys*

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces have issued separate appeals on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Vietnamese August Revolution (August 19) and the Declaration of Viet Nam's independence (September 2), exhorting the South Vietnamese people to redouble their efforts to bring to complete victory the current fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

Analysing the present situation in South Viet Nam, the NFL said in its call,

"Our concerted uprisings in 1959-1960 shook the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorial regime to its very foundation and liberated vast rural and mountain areas. The US imperialists' 'special war' were defeated and two successive major strategic 'counter-offensives' in their local war foiled. What is more, since the 1968 Tet, we have shifted our resistance against US aggression for national salvation over to a new stage, that of general offensives and widespread uprisings.

As a result of our unprecedented successes the war has come to an important turning point where the situation is very favourable for us. We have made great progress in shaping the system of revolutionary power which the people set up in the best of the battle. A Congress of People's Representatives was convened where the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and an Advisory Council to it were elected with complete unanimity. That newly-established government has won immediate recognition from many countries. It has been warmly hailed by the world's peoples and enjoys unreserved support from the South Vietnamese people and the Vietnamese people as a whole. This is a political development of very great significance for us".

The NFL then denounced the schemes and deeds of the Nixon administration which has been to intensifying the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam. It declared,

"As long as the US imperialists pursue their aggression against South Viet Nam, the entire people here and their armed forces will carry on their fight, till the 'Yankees decamp' and the 'puppets topple'. Resistance to foreign aggression is our sacred and inalienable right of self-defence, our unshakable resolve. Whatever savage war acts and whatever perfidious political and diplomatic machinations they may resort to, the US-puppets definitely cannot escape complete defeat".

To the people, the NFL said,

"Our position is extremely advantageous. Let all our compatriots and fighters give full play to the spirit of the August Revolution, the spirit of staunchness and indomitableness, the spirit of resolute and thorough-going revolution, the spirit of tireless and perseverant struggle! Let us bravely surmount all hardships and improve our offensive posture in all fields and on all the military, political and diplomatic fronts and frustrate all schemes and acts of the US-puppets and obtain yet greater, more all-sided successes, for the achievement of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and reunification of the country by peaceful means!"

In its appeal, the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government highly praised all the compatriots and fighters in South Viet Nam for the remarkable contributions they had made, through their stubborn fight, to the common achievements. It also expressed its profound gratitude to all the compatriots and fighters of the older generations as well as the younger generation, who had heroically laid down their lives for the great cause of national liberation.

"The setbacks repeatedly suffered by the US-puppets in all fields," the Provisional Revolutionary Government underlined, have compelled the US imperialists to announce the withdrawal of their troops, which they have begun, and to speak of 'de-Americanizing' the Viet Nam war.

Nevertheless, the US imperialists remain as obdurate as ever. To put into effect the so-called 'de-Americanization', i.e. to play off Vietnamese against Vietnamese, they have been frantically pushing up the 'accelerated pacification program', multiplying their attacks and terror raids, stepping up their psy-war including the so-called 'open arms' operations, increasing their reconnaissance and spy activities, and redoubling their efforts to pen up the population, beat up recruits and exploit our people.

It is obvious that the Nixon administration is following in Johnson's footsteps and is clinging obstinately to the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of traitors to prolong the war of aggression against South Viet Nam. It has also tried to thward all aspirations of the South Vietnamese people for a peace cabinet in Saigon ready to enter into serious negotiations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government on the basis of the 10-point overall solution advanced by the NFL.

The South Vietnamese, continuing the tradition of unyielding fight of the August Revolution and upholding the watchwords 'Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom' and 'Death rather than Slavery,' however, will certainly baffle all savage and wicked acts and schemes of the US imperialists and their stooges."

"For 15 years now, the Provisional Revolutionary Government continued, the US imperialists have wreaked much suffering and mourning on our country. In their deep hatred for the aggressors and traitors, the South Vietnamese people, however, will not let the enemy realize his schemes. They will defeat all his moves, overt or covert.

Pursuing the mission of the glorious victors of the 1945 August Revolution and enhancing the national tradition of indomitableness, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces are resolved to march on along the path of justice, hard but glorious, which the NFL has taken in these 9 years and which the PRG will unswervingly follow, as it has declared in its 12-point Program of action."

For its part, the Central Committee of the VNANDPF said,

"The oppressive atmosphere in South Viet Nam urban centres, the crimes perpetrated by the US imperialists and their lackeys Thieu-Ky-Huong against our compatriots of all social strata, in the towns like in the countryside, all this has exacerbated our hatred for our sworn enemy. Now, sweeping general offensives and widespread uprisings throughout South Viet Nam, the towns people in a common effort with all their compatriots in South Viet Nam and with wholehearted support from their compatriots in North Viet Nam, are actively pushing to a new stage their struggle in all fields, resolved to drive away the US aggressors, overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of US-paid henchmen, and form a peace cabinet prepared to negotiate in good faith with the Provisional Revolutionary Government a settlement founded on the NFL's 10-point overall solution which the VNANDPF entirely adheres to, so that genuine independence, freedom and peace may be achieved in South Viet Nam.

That path is that of great national union and stiff resistance to foreign aggression, the safest path blazed for us by the August Revolution.

The VNANDPF Central Committee appeals to all personalities, intellectuals, writers, artists, industrialists, traders, students, religious believers in areas still under enemy control, officers, non-commissioned officers, servicemen, policemen, and personnel of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet regime to contribute as much as they can, each according to his means, to the common resistance to US aggression and save the country."

In conclusion of its appeal, the VNANDPF Central Committee stressed,

"The gunfire to mark the August Revolution booming all over the country again and is striking at hundreds of nerve positions of the US-puppets, on whom have been inflicted increasingly heavy losses in manpower and war material. Coupled with the assaults of our revolutionary armed forces, the movement in the towns is mounting irresistibly. An extremely broad front of great national union and unity of action has been created, which is cornerning the US-puppets and isolating them in their last military and political strongholds.

Compatriots in the towns! The occasion offered us cannot be more propitious. Let us uphold the tradition of unflinching struggle of the August Revolution! Let us march resolutely forward together with our people in the whole country to defeat the US aggression, overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of bellicose traitors on the US pay-roll, and bring independence, freedom, peace and neutrality to South Viet Nam!"

At Binh Long – Tay Ninh

Violent Attacks Great Victories

(Communique of the PLAF's Command in the Binh Long–Tay Ninh front)

According to a recently issued communique of the Binh Long – Tay Ninh Command of the PLAF, the armed forces and people of the two said provinces from the night of August 11 to August 17 killed, wounded or captured more than 6,000 enemy troops including over 3,500 GIs.

The communique, based on initial reports said the liberation forces also destroyed 530 military vehicles, of these 450 tanks or armoured cars, and 70 artillery pieces or mortars; shot down or destroyed on the ground 90 aircraft; sank or set aflame 26 war vessels; and burned down dozens of ammunition storages.

In terms of units, the PLAF put out of action the puppet 15th Armoured Regiment and wiped out 5 battalions, one armoured squadron and 16 companies, among them the 1st and 2nd battalions of the US 11th Armoured Regiment, the 1st Squadron of the puppet 15th Armoured Regiment, the 2-8 battalion of the US 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division, the 1st Battalion of the puppet 9th Regiment, and the puppet 1st Paratroop Battalion.

The armed forces and people in these regions also heavily decimated the US 11th Armoured Regiment, the puppet 9th Regiment and 8 other battalions of the US-puppets.

The 3rd Brigade of the US Air Cav. suffered heavy casualties, and many of its units were severely beaten.

The communique went on:

"These victories are of great military significance. They have spelled out our very high determination, our great offensive spirit and our marked progress in organization, leadership tactics and fighting technique.

"They have also given a strong encouragement to our armed forces to overcome all difficulties and hardships, enabling us to find out the enemy's weakness while creating good conditions for our side to repeatedly attach him to win greater victories.

"These victories have greatly enhanced our forces and posture. Although the enemy had tried to strengthen his defence, our forces could attack him according to our own plans and timetable, in coordination with other battlefields across South Viet Nam. Our forces have breached all the enemy's defence lines and moved deep into his territory and deal him storming blows right there.

"Our armed forces have fought with special successes both US and puppet troops, both the enemy's infantry, artillery and armour.

"In a brief period many crack units of the enemy at the Eastern Nam Bo (north of Saigon – Ed) from were heavily beaten, including the 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division, the 1st Infantry Division and the 11th Armoured Regiment of the US, and the 9th Regiment and the 15th Armoured Regiment of the puppet army.

"Our forces have engaged the enemy right in his strongholds, his bivouacs and on communication lines.

"Our forces have flexibly applied their tactics with a close co-ordination among infantry, artillery, and special forces, thus greatly increasing the efficiency of the PLAF to the benefit of the political struggle and agitation work among enemy troops, and creating new combined forces to win new, all-round victories on the battlefield.

"As regards the enemy, because of our great speed and powerful and repeated attacks, he has suffered another drawback in force and position. In passiveness, he has regrouped in Binh Long and Tay Ninh.

"Despite his revised defence measures the magnitude of our blows and our tactics have caught him napping hence his confusion right at the outset and his awe and still greate confusion later.

"Enemy defence lines were smashed by big chunks right in the first-attacks. The enemy tried to use on-the-spot forces as reinforcements. Yet under our repeated attacks, he had to send more forces posted at inner defence lines while abandoning a series of enclaves and encampments so as to reinforce Binh Long, Tay Ninh and other major strongholds.

"The enemy wanted to make full use of his armour in attacks to avoid heavy casualties, but he was outmanoeuvred by the Liberation armed forces in Binh Long and Tay Ninh who, with their wonderful anti-armour tactics, inflicted heavy losses on both his armour and infantry.

"The US planned to push puppet forces forward as a shield for US forces in a "de-Americanization" effort. Yet, both US and puppet troops have been badly mauled, and have not been able to support each other, whereas their contradictions and mutual mistrust have increased.

"The more the enemy's defeats, the lower his morale. Opposing orders, abandoning their mates or vehicles on the battlefield have become a practice among enemy troops at present. A whole US armoured unit fled in panic when the PLAF opened up at Tan Khai, leaving other units at the mercy of the liberation forces. In Lo Via area, enemy troops withdrew hastily, abandoning their dead, vehicles, guns and ammunition.

"Fighting is going on in Binh Long – Tay Ninh area greatly favouring our forces. US and puppet forces are trying to recoup resorting to B.52 strikes, toxic chemical sprays, and propaganda ploys. Yet, none of his move can stave off the fierce and repeated onslaughts by our forces.

An enemy convoy ambushed (Drawing by Nguyen Van Kinh)

A Convoy Wiped Out On Highway No 13

HIGHWAY No 13 is a lifeline for the American and puppet forces stationed in the area between Binh Long and Tha Dau Mot. For the past few years, however, it has become, as they say, a "blood and tear" road. From end to end, it still bears traces of our regional troops' feats.

Travelling on any of its section is for the enemy a risky task. With bombs and shells, with tanks and bulldozers and noxious chemicals, they have cleared the vegetation and levelled the ground over five hundred metres from the roadsides. Intelligence agents and commandos will roam about while military vehicles shuttle to and fro almost without interruption. Choppers will patrol overhead to ensure safety for the traffic on a permanent basis.

Such an abundance of security precautions did not prevent the PLAF of Binh-Long from knocking down a whole US convoy between Chon Thanh and Hon Quan on June 6 this year.

Before daybreak our fighters were already at the ambush site. Many, smiling, winked at each other knowingly, "Let's get as many cars as possible".

Standing on a huge termite hill, political commissar Do looked round and felt safe as the camouflage of all his units was at its best. He remembered what remarkable spirit of emulation his men had displayed before setting off. A first-rate tank shooter, Luong who was shivering from a serious fever fit, insisted: "My fever will go in the fighting. Brother, let me come and do my bit". Many others also said, "Let's drub stubbornness out of the Yanks so they'll leave us alone".

The day gradually set in. The OP men could now see farther in the direction of Chon Thanh. CO B. reminded them to keep their heads cool and promptly report the adversary's movement.

Again and again calls poured in from the OP: helicopters were skimming over the highway, and trucks running toward Hon Quan, 3, 5 then 15, but empty ones. It was 11.30 sharp. The officer was boiling with impatience.

The telephone buzzed again this time with an unusual ring.

"A very long convoy is moving toward us. So far 32 vehicles. There are many, many more."

B. asked for more details and ordered all his units to get ready.

"Over 100 cars are heading for Hon Quan under a thick helicopter cover", said the voice from the other end of the line.

The commander of the unit which was to cut the convoy in its middle glanced at the roadside, listening to the crumble coming from afar. Visibly satisfied, he thought "What a treat we are going to have!". A few days earlier, leading a

(Continued on page 5)

Triumphal return

AND so his dream was to come true, a dream he had nurtured for years. For a few hours already, he had been in Huế with his unit, at his combat post, waiting for the start of the general offensives and uprisings. Here he was in this city where he was born as a citizen, which he had left as a slave, and where he was to return — so he had sworn to himself — as victor, as free man.

Hung recalled the various stages of his life, which were also the main episodes of the revolution in his native land in the course of this quarter century.

His mother, he was told, had given birth to him one night of the "Great Autumn of 1945". It was the 23rd of August. All day, together with other "Women for National Salvation" she had been engaged in winning power in her city quarter. Irresistibly, the general insurrection ended in victory in late afternoon with a mammoth demonstration. Before the Royal Palace, the people, now sovereign master, forced Bao Dai to abdicate. While on the monumental Ngo Mon gate, the deposed monarch handed his sceptre and seal to the envoys of the Provisional Government, on the "King's Cavalier" just opposite, the gold-starred red flag was hoisted, the banner of independence and freedom. Hung's mother came home in the evening, as the streets, brightly lit and bunting-bedecked, remained filled with enthusiastic crowds. A few hours later, in a modest, thatch cottage on the bank of the Perfume River, on the outskirts of the town, Nguyen Van Hung saw the light. The little citizen's first cries greeted life and the new era opening up before the country, at one stroke freed from local feudalism, French colonialism and Japanese fascism. "Happy boy," said his father and the neighbours, "he doesn't have to know, won't have to know, the shame and misery of his fathers."

Unfortunately the prediction was not realized. Less than two years later, French colonialism returned, and in its wake, the felonious king and other traitors, the old life and its miseries. One day Hung's father left to enlist in the National Defence Army. He did not come back. It was reported to the family that he was killed in combat, somewhere in the jungle part of the province. Hung's mother worked hard as a pedlar to feed herself and her child, while hoping for better days to come. A glimmer of hope appeared following Dien Bien Phu and the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. Alas, peace dit not last long. American imperialism took the place of French colonialism and brought with it the pack of the Ngo Dinh Diem brothers. The new yoke turned out to be heavier, much heavier than the old.

When he was eighteen, Hung followed his father's example. One wintry night in 1963, he bade farewell to his mother, promising to return one day as victor over the enemy. And now he was back, true to his promise. For five years he had fought in the ranks of the People's Liberation Armed Forces. He had participated in a hundred-old battles in the jungle of Quang Tri — Thua Thien; perhaps on some occasion at the very place where his father had fallen. He had killed Yankees and puppets; he had punished cruel thugs. And soon, when H hour would strike...

Hung saw in his mind's eye that sequence of events in his life as if he were sitting before a

movie screen. His mind was beset with a thousand questions about his mother: "Poor Mother," he was saying to himself, "where are you now? Are you still living in the cottage which witnessed my birth? Or perhaps you have escaped from the clutch of the enemy and are living somewhere else? Or could it be that you had joined my poor father in the other world?... "But he was too upset by this sad possibility to think about it any more.

Suddenly a heavy gun boomed in the still of night. On every side, there was a clatter of gunfire, mingled to wild beats of gongs, drums, tocsins. The offensive was started, and the people had risen up. Caught napping, the enemy was in full disarray and opposed only a weak resistance. Hung and his unit quickly carried out their assignment: to capture enemy positions in the western sector of the Citadel. A continuous flow of reports came to the command post set up not far from there: into our hands had fallen An Cuu, Cho Dong, Vi Da, Ben Ngu, Nam Giao, on the right bank; the Co Hen island and Bach Ho bridge on the river; Dong Ba and Gia Hoi on the left bank; the Thuong Tu and Chinh Tay gates of the Citadel, etc.

Dawn broke. Calm had returned. Or rather, the sound of gunfire had ceased. The entire people of Huế, wild with joy, turned out in the streets. In the first light of that beautiful spring day, one could see fluttering on top of the mast of the "King's Cavalier" an enormous flag of the NFL — 120 square metres — at the very place where twenty — three years ago the gold-starred red flag had been hoisted.

Hung and his unit were detailed to guard those sacred colours. On duty with his comrades on top of the "Cavalier", he looked down on the surrounding areas. He had not been able to see Huế the day which followed his birth. He was sure however that today the city was as beautiful as it had been, with as many, perhaps even more flags. Banners of all sizes, everywhere, in the Citadel, on both banks of the river, on the Truong Tien bridge, on the sampans sailing in the stream. The only difference was that they were red-and-blue flags, with a gold star. But today Huế must be even busier than in those old days. For the crowds filling the streets were not simply giving vent to their joy. What with bringing supplies to the fighters, giving first aid to the wounded, helping move captured arms and equipment away, keeping watch ever prisoners, hunting enemy agents, preparing for the setting up of people's revolutionary committees, self-defence groups, armed propaganda teams, etc.—they had their hands full. Here and there, bureaux had been opened, where young men came to enlist in the liberation army; at others, puppets presented themselves and implored the people's pardon.

Hung especially liked to follow with his eye the flow of women passing before the Phu Van Lau kiosk, a few hundred metres from where he was standing guard. He imagined his mother among them coming to visit units of the liberation army. Oh, may she come here! How pleased she will be to see her son in good health and having fulfilled his duty!

In fact, his mother did come, in the afternoon. The political commissar of his unit had arranged for this so much hoped-for meeting. With indescribable joy he learnt that right in the first hours of the day she had participated, together with other "Women for Liberation", in the freeing of patriots detained in the Thua Phu prison, that back home she had taken out from a cache a gold-starred red flag, which she had hidden away for twenty-three years, and had hung it before her home, and that since noon she had been a member of the preparatory committee working to set up a people's revolutionary committee in her quarter.

A few gun reports came from the distance. The enemy had not admitted defeat. He might recover his legs and would certainly throw himself about with fury. "Mother," he said in a grave and moved voice, "excuse me if I cannot yet come home with you." He clasped his gun tight, repeating in a whisper the oath of independence of which his political commissar was wont to remind his unit each year at the approach of autumn: "We'd rather endure any sacrifice than return to servitude!"

MINH PHUONG

---

petard group he had broken though three barbed-wire entanglements into the enemy CP at D., with all his comrades close behind him. This thought fired him to perform a new feat.

Khoan, an other anti-tank fighter, checked the ammunition, his heart beating wildly.

The roar of engines grew more distinct with every passing minute. The group in charge of chopping off the rear carefully followed the adversary's movement. Khanh, the leader, told one of his men:

"Don't forget to hammer at the first tanks with A.T. bullets. As for GMCs, grenades and petard will do."

B. continued to receive information from the O.P. which kept streaming in. Having calculated the speed of the convoy and the time necessary for the various units to rush to the place, he shouted:

"Comrades! Our mates have just won a big success at Hon Quan. The Yanks and puppets are in deep water there. We won't let them rescue one another. You must knock out this convoy"

A qnarter part twelve. The sun was at its hottest.

Tinh, leading the unit which was to open fire, ordered Luong to strike at the two tanks in front.

With a single shell he hit the first. Then, quick as a squirrel, he loaded another shell and let it off. The two tanks were set ablaze. The trucks running behind, whose drivers could not put on the broke quick enough, bumped against each other. Thao and Ngon dashed forward and put one of them out out of action. Quang, the liaison agent, also managed to set fire to another. So also did Tinh with an explosive charge placed in a cabin. And the whole convoy was stopped dead.

Taken completely unawares, the panic-stricken enemy troops hurriedly got off and hid under their cars.

The other tanks spat a sustained fire in front of them.

At that moment, together with some fighters of his group, Khanh jumped on the roadway and in next to no time destroyed a tank. Close upon them were Ut, Thanh and Quyen who cut down several others.

With this, the convoy was entirely caught within the firelines of the PLAF.

Braving an intense straffing from helicopters, Liberation troops dashed onto the highway in increasing numbers and emulated one another in wiping out adversee manpower and materiel. Most remarkable were Tong and Khoan and their groups. While commanding his mates, Tong blew up enemy cars with petards. As for Khoan, he ran along the roadside and fired at one tank after another. His achievement—5 tanks wrecked—greatly stimulated everyone to get at GMCs.

The ambush site was wrapped in an immense cloud of smoke. Choppers kept zeroing in, caught in the thick fire network woven by both our A. A and shock fighters. Lying on his back on the roadway, Nang brought down a chopper with an automatic when it was making a low dive. Now standing, now kneeling, now resting the barrel of his gun on a tree branch, Huong provided an effective cover to his attacking comrades. The enemy on the air was put to flight, leaving their men on ground to their fate.

Meanwhile, from outside Thang and his unit made their way to the ambush site and quickly scattered on the highway. In coordination with other units they completed the wiping out of the remaining US troops and vehicles close to them. A four-man group headed by Do work round to the left and struck at one GMC after another. From behind Ut's anti-tank group pressed forward and effected a junction with Do's. Both groups then dispersed in search for the remainder of the convoy.

The engagement ended at 13.30: huge columns of flames and smoke were rising into the sky. GIs bodies lay sprawling on the highway, charred tanks and trucks.

All told, nearly 400 enemy soldiers were killed, 107 vehicles blasted out of use and 7 helicopters shot down.

A super "silver swallow"

Nguyen Hong Nhi, an ace of the Viet Nam People's Air Force.

Editor's note—Nguyen Hong Nhi, an ace of the Viet Nam People's Air Force, was born in Binh Dinh, South Trung Bo. He enlisted at 15 of age and took part in many engagements against French troops in his native province. After the signing of the Geneva Agreements he went to North Viet Nam at the end of 1954 and was soon afterwards trained into a pilot. Nhi fought against American air pirates with remarkable courage and resourcefulness. His fervid patriotism, and deep hatred was incensed by the aggressors and their agents' atrocities in both parts of his country. We publish the following excepts from the story on the occasion of our Independence Day to give our readers an idea of how a South Vietnamese brought up in the North has recorded brilliant achievements.

...THUS far Nhi has shot down eight planes of the latest types of the US Air Force.

Among his successful encounters, some of particular significance have contributed to the devising of new tactical methods to counter the enemy's "sophisticated" ones.

For a time US Air Force brasshats lauded to the skies the RF-101, an up-to-date reconnaissance aircraft. Operating as a "Cunning marauder", it proved effective indeed owing to its high speed and mobility. Like an eel in muddy waters, it dodged our ground fire, and on many occasions managed to escape the punch of our fighters. How to cach such a marauder red-handed?

...One day an RF-101 was spotted in our airspace. Nhi received orders to stand ready. With him was Kinh, a chap of his own hamlet who had followed the same training course as he did. Outwardly they looked quite different – Nhi a short young man and Kinh a tall one. Both, however, felt bound to each other by a keen affection, as fellow villagers, the same determination to wipe out the adversary and, more important, perfect team work in combat.

The order to take off was given. Ninh and Kinh soared up into the sky toward the incoming intruder.

"Silver Swallows, take care", came word from the ground. "Raven" is on your left. Keep your formation and get ready for action."

A black dot turned up in front of Nhi from an expected direction. He reported, gleefully:

"We've spotted "Raven". We're ready".

The order was issued. The "Swallows" dashed ahead through the clouds. Certainly aware of what was going on, the marauder wove downward, keeping great distance between Nhi and him. Nhi reduced altitude and set about chasing him.

Very cunningly, the latter dodged like an eel, now to the right, now to the left. While keeping close behind him Nhi tried to anticipate his moves. He then decided to rush ahead in a bid to fall on him from front.

The hunted plane slipped behind a mountain range, surely with the belief it was already safe, and zoomed again. It was then that Nhi let off a round, kindling a flash in its fuselage. The whole aircraft with the pilot still in the cockpit caught fire, and in no while exploded into bits like a cracker.

For the first time a much-vaunted RF-101 of the US Air Force was blown up by our airmen.

...During the closing weeks of 1967 the Americans stepped up the last rungs of their criminal escalation in North Viet Nam. They flew massive raids on Hanoi, five or six on certain days, each involving a hundred or more planes.

That day Nhi set out on a combat mission, boiling with the impatience of avenging his countrymen. In the previous few days he had heard of untold crimes committed by the Yankee air pirates right in the capital city of Hanoi. He had also received a letter from Binh Dinh telling him that American bombs and toxic chemicals had blitzed level an area of Hoai Nhon district reputed for its lush coconut plantations.

From early morning Nhi made minute preparations for his unit. All of a sudden several enemy flights roared in and bombed the airstrip, which all but meant that the adversary was about to launch a heavy attack on Hanoi. Nhi wanted to take off at that very moment when the enemy certainly believed that our airbase had been completely paralysed.

The take-off order was given. Nhi and his mates boarded their respective planes. Everyone in the airfield followed their movement with extreme anxiety.

Nhi's plane, which took the lead, taxied off at increasing speed and quickly left the ground. In a few moments all his unit was airborne to the delight of all. Again anxiety gnawed at everyone's heart: how would the coming fight unfold?

This time the Americans threw a fairly large force into the battle. Obviously not confident that their "sophisticated" tactics would enable them to get the better of our fighters' resourcefulness, they wanted to outnumber them.

The enemy truculently burst into Hanoi. They did not suspect that their opponent had already been on the wing, ready to meet them. With his mates, behind him, Nhi rushed straight into their formation from the most unexpected direction. It was too late when they realized his intention. He fired a round at the intruders. Thrown in utter confusion they tried to dodge as best they could. Then Nhi released another salvo at the most aggressive plane. This was set ablaze and the rest put to flight.

A few days later Nhi's unit scored another feat over an adverse squadron, downing three aircraft almost at the same time.

Nhi and his "Silver swallow" fired by his love for his country and the thought of his native province pining under foreign occupation will certainly soar to fresh exploits.

DUONG VAN TY
(DRVN)

A VNPA MISSILE UNIT

Minister Xuan Thuy, eminent diplomat, Head of the Delegation of the DRVN Government at the Paris Confesence.

It's our love

SEPTEMBER 2, 1969...

THE day is pregnant with big events that are bound to happen in 1970.

This year, while observing the anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day, more than ever we are looking forward. For ahead lies an immense prospect.

But National Day is also an occasion for us to look back. Oh, our 4,000-year-old land is indeed in the prime of youth! For twenty-four years now we have been carrying on the August Revolution. For twenty-four years, we have stood firm as the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Twenty-four years ago, there was a big flood, the Red River dykes burst, and two million Vietnamese starved to death. Simply because then power was not yet in our hands.

As I am writing these lines, the level of the Red River waters has surpassed that of 1945 by several metres, and a fourth-degree alert has been sounded. Yet, motion picture theatres are filled to capacity, schools are preparing for the opening of the new term after the summer holidays, satirists are gathering at the Writers' Union office to discuss the celebrations of the anniversary of poet Tu Xuong... Abovehead we hear the drone of observation planes keeping watch over the river in spate. An American plane also came, to enjoy the sight of floods threatening the North, and was shot down: the latest of the more than 3,300 American aircraft brought down over the North so far! Yes, for 24 years, we have been the masters of the land: we hold power!

"WE" doesn't apply solely to the North, to the 17 million Vietnamese on this side of the Ben Hai river. Welcoming Dr Phung Van Cung a few months ago, and now Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, the Hanoi people have been waving both gold-starred red flags and gold-starred red-and-blue ones, those of the National Front for Liberation, and the Republic of South Viet Nam. But we all hail from the August Revolution. In 1945, in Qui Nhon, together with my friends, I went and take over power there, and lived the first months of our independence in Da Nang, Hue and Quang Tri. Unlike the Americans at present, the French aggressors at the time did not claim that the **Ve Quoc Doan** (National Defence) units attacking them in Saigon and Pleiku, in the years 1945, 1946 and after, had "infiltrated from the North". The Saigon people called their city the Ho Chi Minh city. And right up to the signing of the Geneva agreements, the same seal was used by chairmen of village committees in Ca Mau and Lang Son alike. This is no trite formula. It's our love. It's our happiness, our life. The 17 million Vietnamese in the North are grateful to their 14 million Southern compatriots for having stood up together with them to wage the August Revolution and bring the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam into existence. Over the past 24 years, the South has been defending our regime gun in hand. This year, children in the North no longer have to wear splinter-proof helmets of plaited straw and carry first-aid kits when going to school; lovers can linger in the parks without having to worry about air raid alarms. This is due to Northern gunners, who have shot down more than 3,000 enemy aircraft so far; this is also due to the Southern fighters and people, who are still shedding their blood in defence of both zones of the Fatherland. Could Americans in Los Angeles or New Orleans feel themselves to be independent, if their fellow-countrymen in New York or Philadelphia were bombed? Could Frenchmen in Provence feel themselves to be free if Paris were occupied? Yet it is a fact that Americans may be of either African or European descent, just as Frenchmen may live in either **langue d'oil** or **langue d'oe** regions. In their **hearts and minds**, the 17 million North Vietnamese do not feel themselves liberated so long as the South is still a victim of aggression. When a Cuban, the leader of a friendly country—his name is Fidel Castro—, says, "Cubans will not stint their blood for the sake of Viet Nam!", Vietnamese are all the more aware that they are responsible for the fate of their Fatherland.

A bumper crop of grain and of smiles

A foreign writer recently asked me: "You know the Americans have set foot on the moon, don't you?" Surely, we know it. Just as 24 years ago, when starting the fight against the American-supported French colonialists with only bamboo spears as weapons, we knew that the Americans had the atom bomb. But listen, friend, the same day Americans landed on the moon, other Americans were dying of rat bites in American slums or were impaled in spiked pitfalls dug by South Vietnamese guerillas. Minister Nguyen Thi Binh has said that the way from the USA to Saigon is a whole lot gloomier than the one leading to the moon. She is right. For that way is paved with the bodies of American young men, and on it, American honour and prestige, and the names of Whitman and Lincoln, are getting smeared. The Americans have reached the moon after spending 30 billion dollars They have spent five times as much on their fruitless venture in Viet Nam. Were they to spend five times that amount again, they would be unable to stay here.

The year 1969 has been ours. So will be 1970. If need be, we shall have the years that are to follow. Time is on our side. We will certainly carry into effect these words of President Ho Chi Minh:

"So long as a single aggressor remains on our soil, we shall sweep him away". We are doing the sweeping.

CHE LAN VIEN
(Writer—DRVN)

VNANDPF delegation warmly received in North Viet Nam

As announced, a Delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democatic and Peace Forces led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of its Central Committee, arrived in Hanoi on August 16, 1969 to visit NVN. It was given the warmest welcome as Southern kith and kin by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, political parties, mass organizations, armed forces and people in North Viet Nam.

Soon after its arrival in the DRVN Capital, it was cordially received by Ton Duc Thang, Chairman of the Presidum, and many members of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, members of the National Assembly, the Government Council, representatives of political parties, mass organizations along with thousands of people.

In his greeting speech, Chairman Ton Duc Thang said, "We are very gratified to see that the prestige and influence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has been rising at home and abroad. We highly appreciate the great contributions of the Alliance to the common struggle of the nation." In his reply, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao stressed "Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese people are one nation. This truth which has defied all challenges throughout the history of our nation, will prove even more unassailable in our present resistance against US aggression for national salvation. It has been increasingly a source of inspiration for the South Vietnamese people, the city folk, be they intellectuals, religious believers, industrialists, traders or workers, toilers and other patriots"

The Delegation attended at an impressive meeting of welcome organized by Hanoians at the Ba Dinh meeting hall. Hoang Quoc Viet, Presidium member of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee, delivered a speech of greeting extolling the tremendous and all-round succcses of the South Vietnamese people in their resistance against US aggression and the kith and kin North-South feeling shown during the common struggle of the people in both zones. On the significance of the Delegation's tour Hoang Quoc Viet was sure that it would bring closer North and South, and strengthen especially the militant solidarity between the townsfolk, intellectuals, students... of the two zones in their struggle for an independent, free, peaceful, neutral South Viet Nam and for the ultimate reunification of the country.

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao denounced US-puppet crimes against the South Vietnamese people, particularly against the urban population. He also emphasized the role and achievements of the Alliance, of the townsfolk in the resistance against US aggression for national salvation. He highly appreciated, and expressed sincere thanks for the considerable help extended by the Northern to their Southern kindred in the common efforts.

Then he expounded the position of the Alliance in regard to the present situation and declared: "Whether the USA withdraws 25,000, 50,000 or more troops does not solve the South Viet Nam problem. The point is that the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights have been most ruthlessly infringed upon by the American aggressors. Therefore, to settle the Viet Nam issue the USA must end its aggression, withdraw unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and leave the South Vietnamese to choose their own political regime through free general elections in accordance with the overall ten-point solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, it must take into consideration the four-points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces flatly rejects the so-called "concrete political solution" through "free elections" put forward by Nguyen Van Thieu. For the realities of life under the US-puppet oppressive rule have brought home to the South Vietnamese townsfolk that so long as genuine independence and freedom are not achieved there cannot be any genuinely free elections.

During its stay in Hanoi, the Delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces called on Ton Duc Thang, Chairman of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and at the Ministry of National Defence, the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Museum of the Revolution, apart from sightseeing Hanoi beauty spots and works erected by its citizens like the Youths' Lake, the Unity Park. At the Ministry of National Defence, General Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister together with many high-ranking officers and army heroes of the Viet Nam People's Army greeted with fervour their Comrades-in-arms coming from the enemy-temporarily occupied Southern zone visiting the great rearbase of the country.

above:
Fatherland Front Chairman Ton Duc Thang (and from left) chatting with leaders of the visiting Alliance Delegation: Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Mr. Lam Van Tet and Venerable Thich Don Hau.

★

Hanoians' rousing welcome to the Alliance Delegation.

In South Viet Nam liberated zone

Produce with plough in one hand and rifle in the other

ALONG with PLAF widespread splendid feats and the townspeople's ringing political successes, the peasants in South Viet Nam liberated zone got the better of natural calamities and enemy attacks and brought in abundant crops in 1968-1969.

Putting into practice the "Produce with plough in one hand and rifle in the other" slogan, they have fulfilled the great task laid down by the Central Committee of the NFL and the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association: "Fight and produce with zeal, supply ever more food for the front, gradually raise the people's living standard".

Beaten on the battlefield, the US imperialists and their henchmen have made utmost efforts to destroy life in the liberated areas while mounting frantic "pacification" operations in areas around their bases. With bombs, shells and toxic chemicals, they have tried to wipe out any life and turn the countryside into a frozen moonscape as the Western press put it.

But, under the leadership of the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, life in South Viet Nam liberated four-fifths run by an ever more efficient administrative network of revolutionary power has been constantly on the upgrade. The NFL economic, cultural, education, social achievements and the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam have given a great impetus to the people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Orchard devastated by US chemical poisons.

In the agricultural field, since the start of Tet 1968 widespread offensives and concerted uprisings, South Vietnamese farmers have enthusiastically applied a number of techniques in water conservancy, selection of rice seeds, soil improvement, anti-pest drive weeding, fertilizing... As a result, two-crop cultivation has been extended to numerous ricefields, the rice, maize, sweet potato and bean yield per hectare has increased.

New farming methods have been popularized extensively. Apart from summing up experiences gained by peasants in various areas, the People's Revolutionary Committees and the Liberation Peasants' Association at provincial level have sent cadres to the villages to share peasants' life and work particularly on areas turned by the enemy into no man's land round their military posts.

Growing and tending of food crops chiefly of rices application of new farming methods under the conditions of the US war of extermination has been a round-the-clock grim battle. In many areas, peasants must do the field work at night. On certain fields, they have to take advantage of the lulls between shellings or bombings or of the glare of enemy searchlights or flares for the ploughing transplanting or harvesting.

Trenches and underground shelters have been dug everywhere on the fields to protect phoughmen and buffaloes from bombing or shelling. In some areas, sowing has had to be done as many as six times, nurseries being often changed to dodge enemy strikes. Adequate precautions have been taken to defend rice at each stage of its growth, from sowing to harvesting. Much sweat and even blood has been shed to get rice or sweet potatoes.

AGRICULTURE in South Vietnam is favoured by fertile soil and suitable tropical climate. But the greedy American aggressors want to turn our immense green rice fields into other Californian farms. It is natural that our hard-working peasants should not let the aggressors rob them of their age-old legacy fiercely shown fight. Tens of thousands of GI's have fallen in the green paddies of South Viet Nam.

Carrying out abreast combat and production, South Vietnamese farmers are determined to hold on to their fields and villages, to make enemy no man's land lush again with rice, maize, sweet potatoes and beans. They are determined to supply people's troops with enough food and gradually improve the people's living conditions. By gather a bumper "anti-US harvest of Autumn Rice", "by extending the acreage and increasing the per hectare rice" field, they have achieved important successes on the agricultural front contrubuting their share to the common victory of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people.

Their exploit was commended in May 1969 by the "All South Viet Nam Conference of peasants' representatives".

The South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association fully deserves the 1st Class Liberation Order awarded by the Central Committee of the NFL.

HO PHUC MINH

Hectic activity on "the second front"

(Continued from page 12)

Viet Nam. On the main battlefield, in South Viet Nam, the American aggressors are sinking ever deeper into the morass of defeat; in the United States itself, opposition to the Administration shakes towns and cities. The coming month will be one of protest by GI's, who urge the total repatriation of the over half a million American troops in South Viet Nam.

In their ghettoes, American Negroes contribute a worthly share to the common struggle of the American people against the war in Viet Nam. The cry of "Black Power" is always associated with the slogan: "The fight for freedom is at home". For more than a century, American Negroes have been living in intolerable servitude, the victims of scorn, exploitation, injustice, racial discrimination. For many years, Afro-Americans have risen up and taken to the street. Yearly uprisings in the summer have prompted this Nixon comment. Each year, the violence in our cities on more features of a guerilla war. The path of struggle in which American Blacks have taken have certainly a promising vista: in place of their present hovels, they will have decent houses to live in; their children will go to school unmolested, they will have jobs and enjoy equality.

The South Vietnamese people warmly hail the American people's movement against the American government's war of aggression in Viet Nam. They wholeheartedly support the legitimate demands of Afro-Americans. With their unyielding resistance, they are determined to join forces with the American people to fulfil their common aspiration: to end the American war of aggression in South Viet Nam, to have all American troops withdrawn from South Viet Nam!

HA DUY PHUOC

AFSC:

The NFL is one of the world's most formidable fighters

"As the only foreigners in South Viet Nam, the US and its allies have nothing to negotiate but the rate and manner of their withdrawal", *declared the American Friends Service Committee Board of Directors in a statement to US President Nixon.*

The statement, signed by Gilbert F. White and Bronson P. Clark respectively Chairman and Executive Secretary of the AFSC, and dated May 5th 1969, said:

"We believe the US military and government leaders are fostering illusions in regard to (South) Viet Nam. Our own experience in Viet Nam is so at variance with official interpretations that we cannot reconcile what we have seen with what is officially reported. Americans are under the impression that the war is all but over; it is not. They are being told that the US military policy is one of restraint in the interest of the progress in Paris; it is not. They are encouraged to think that the Thieu-Ky government is becoming more acceptable to the Vietnamese, that it is politically more secure, more resolute in carrying on the war, more ready to institute reforms, more competent to carry on with diminishing US help. We find no evidence that these things are so.

In our judgment, the human situation in (South) Viet Nam today is worse than it has ever been; the cumulative result of the US involvement (on top of 25 years of warfare) borders not on (South) Viet Nam's salvation, but on its death. An entire nation is being physically, morally and spiritually destroyed — and the tempo of destruction has increased, not decreased, since the beginning of the Paris talks and the bombing halt."

The statement, after underlining that the AFSC is qualified to make a judgment on the South Viet Nam problem since it has had 15 years of relationship with Viet Nam, pointed out:

"Physical destruction is enormous. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been defoliated, countless villages have been razed, and bomb craters pockmark the countryside. B-52 raids alone have torn 2.5 million holes 45 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep-holes that are now filled with water and serve as breeding grounds for malarial mosquitoes and other insects. More tons of explosives have been dropped on this tiny country than they were dropped on all the Axis powers in all of World War II, and with every month that passes the loads are bigger and the bombs heavier. In December 1968, the US for the first time began using in (South) Viet Nam 10,000-pound bombs that had been stored in military depots for 15 years."

Dealing with the economic impact of the war and the suffering of the people, the statement continued,

"The basic economy of the country has been destroyed, and only heavy imports of consumer goods from the US and Japan keep inflation from assuming explosive dimensions. Corruption is epidemic. Viet Nam's ancient Buddhist culture, with its village roots, its veneration of ancestors, its reliance on the extended family, has been torn apart by the impact of having quartered in its midst a half million foreign troops who know nothing of its ways or sensibilities. Prostitution and black marketing are rampant.

In all of this the suffering of the Vietnamese has reached levels that would appall the American people if they could see it. Many thousands have been forced from their home with short notice, incarcerated in tent cities and then, after weeks or months, have been permitted to return to their villages-their homes destroyed, their animals dead, and their fields mined...

Even before the 1968 Tet offensive it was estimated that there were from 150.000 to 200,000 civilian casualties annually."

The statement stressed that far from reducing the level of violence as officially claimed, the US had actually escalated the war in South Viet Nam since Nov. 1968:

"Americans are assured that the US goals in Viet Nam are limited ones. Earlier talk of victory has ceased as the death toll has risen and as the decimation of (South) Viet Nam has become apparent. Today the apologists for continued US military action argue that our commitment will be fulfilled if our forces can achieve a reasonably pacified countryside, a reasonably stable government, and a reasonably effective Vietnamese (puppet) Army capable of defending itself against its opponents. The Americans are being assured that progress towards these goals is being made. On the basis of our experience, however, and without considering whether these are appropriate goals for the US to be seeking, we do not believe they are in fact attainable."

The statement continued,

"Pacification efforts have repeatedly failed over a ten-year period and they will continue to fail. The Hamlet Evacuation System, a US-introduced-computerized measurement of territorial security, may show the country to be 75 per cent secure, but all who know the Vietnamese countryside dismiss such figures out of hand. They are worthless because our sources of data are biased, and the definition of 'security' is elusive.

As the recent Tet offensive has shown once again, the NFL can still move with impunity into any part of (South) Viet Nam, even into the very centres of US, military power. Despite the contrived reports of the computers and despite the billions of dollars spent on pacification, there is today no part of (South) Viet Nam is truly secure. Neither the US nor Saigon is "winning the minds and hearts' of the (South) Vietnamese. The countryside has not been pacified; it is less secure in 1969 than it was in 1965. Even major cities, though ringed with fortifications, are vulnerable to attack and infiltration. Quaker workers and Vietnamese forces report to us that anti-American feeling has never before been so intense as it is now."

With regard to the Saigon puppet administration the statement said,

"The Thieu-Ky government does not offer any promise of future stability. The government in Saigon is a military dictatorship propped up by US power, despised by most Vietnamese, and notoriously corrupt. Freedom of speech is suppressed. No one knows exactly how many Vietnamese political prisoners languish in Viet Nam's prisons, but the figure is certainly in thousands, and includes many of the country's leading intellectuals: university professors, religious leaders' lawyers, students, newspaper editors, politicians—anyone who has dared to advocate political initiatives to end the war. Many of the leading figures in the present Saigon government fought for the French against their own countrymen. They represent an old and wanished order. Whatever the outcome in (South) Viet Nam, they will be swept away the moment the Vietnamese regain control of their own affairs. They are too weak a reed on which to pin any US hope for future political stability.

The South Vietnamese (puppet) armed forces will never successfully take over the military burden now carried by the US. It is not hardware or training that is lacking in Saigon's armies. It is will, the one ingredient the United States will never be able to provide. Thieu's soldiers have no heart for this struggle and have not had any for years. Indeed, one of the most striking phenomena of the war is the contrast between the contending forces: a Vietnamese dressed in the peasant garb of the NFL is one of the world's most formidable fighting men; the same man in the uniform of Saigon is one of the world's poorest. Why? Because one believes he fights to drive the foreigner from his own soil, while the other fights only to sustain the power of a corrupt military clique."

In conclusion the statement said:

"We believe that the only viable option left for the US in Viet Nam is to withdraw from the whole tragically misconceived adventure.

This is something the US can do. Our military can cease all offensive action, all search-and-destroy missions, all air and sea attacks, and withdraw US troops to port areas for repatriation. This action would have the paramount advantage of returning the future of Viet Nam to the Vietnamese, where it belongs. Questions of reunification and political settlement are questions for the Vietnamese to answer, because the Vietnamese, whether they live in Hanoi or Saigon, are still a single people.

As the only foreigners in South Viet Nam, the US and its allies have nothing to negotiate but the rate and manner of their withdrawal."

The PLAF women-gunners

NFL CC Presidium Enlarged Session:

OUR PEOPLE WILL FIGHT ON TO RID THEIR LAND OF THE LAST AGGRESSOR

THE Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation sat in an enlarged session early this month to review the situation and work out major policies for the immediate future.

A related communique said the session was presided over by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFLCC also heard reports on the general situation since the beginning of 1969, the military situation, and developments at the Paris Conference, delivered respectively by Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-President of the Presidium, and Secretary General, of the NFLCC; Tran Nam Trung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFLCC; and Tran Buu Kiem, member of the Presidium of the NFLCC and Head of the former delegation of the NFL to the Paris Conference.

Follows the gist of the communique:

1. The session unanimously holds that with the start of the widespread offensive at the beginning of the Mau Than (1968) Lunar Year, the South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation has switched to the stage of general offensive and widespread uprising, a new and the highest stage of the revolution in South Viet Nam.

The victories recorded by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in 1968 have upset the enemy's strategic position, and brought about a pivotal turn in the military situation.

Promoting the results of the 1968 victories, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces since the beginning of 1969 have further developed their all-round offensive position, winning very great victories. Another serious blow has thus been dealt at the US in its "clear and hold" strategy, its scheme of "accelerated pacification," and its policies of "de-Americanizing" the war and exerting "maximum military pressure."

The victories won so far this year have seriously shaken the aggressive design of the US imperialists. They have caused added difficulties and setbacks to the Nixon administration. These victories have made the puppets' crisis worsen and further lowered the morale of US and puppet troops, while boosting up the popular moment in the United States for US withdrawal and an end to the Viet Nam war.

A very important fact has been proven that the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, continuing their general offensive and widespread uprising, have brought their position of strategic offensive to a higher stage. They have applied with creativeness and efficacy the various guidelines and modes of revolutionary war, thereby creating conditions for strong as well as sustained attacks and bigger successes.

The South Vietnamese people have destroyed a sizable part of the live force and war materiel of the US —puppets. At the same time they built and developed their military and political forces in a steady, vigorous manner, while keeping the offensive on the military as well as political and diplomatic fronts. The liberated zone has been secured and broadened. People's power has been widened, while ceaseless efforts have been made to consolidate and strengthen the bloc of great national unity in the big cities and other areas still under enemy control.

Revolutionary power at various levels has been set up everywhere in the liberated zone. The South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives and the establishment of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Advisory Council to it constitute a major political victory of the South Vietnamese people. That government has been recognized by more than 20 countries and warmly hailed by the world's people.

On the diplomatic front the South Vietnamese people, with their just cause, have won stronger sympathy and greater support from the people of the world.

At the Paris Conference, both the delegation of the NFL and formerly and the delegation of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government at present have clearly shown the South Vietnamese people's serious attitude in seeking a peaceful solution to the South Viet Nam issue. The correct, fair and reasonable ten-point overall solution advocated by the NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government has won the sympathy and backing of the people at home and all over the world. The position and prestige of our people, the NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government have been enhanced more and more in the international arena.

2) The session is of the opinion that the US imperialists, though heavily defeated, remain as obdurate and perfidious as ever.

At the Paris Conference, the US — puppets are resorting to every manœuvre conceivable to oppose a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam question. They have raised such impossible issues as "mutual withdrawal." Of late, they have even spoken of "free elections" to be held under Saigon control with the assistance of more than one million US — puppet troops and within the context of the reactionary "constitution" of Saigon.

The South Vietnamese people, fighting with exemplary abnegation and fearlessness for many years against the US imperialists and their stooges for their fundamental national rights, for an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and the ultimate reunification of their Fatherland by peaceful means, cannot be cowed by any war move or threat. Neither will they fall dupe to any tricky political machination of the enemy.

Not until the US has put an end to its war of aggression, withdraw all its troops and troops of other foreign countries in its camp from South Viet Nam, and abandoned the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, will the South Vietnamese people be able to settle their own affairs and hold free and democratic general elections to decide a political regime for South Viet Nam in conformity with the 10-point overall solution advanced by the NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

As long as the US continues its aggression against South Viet Nam, the people of this region will fight on to rid their land of the last aggressor.

Tay Ninh's women — guerillas

ON AN JIO FIRST PRIZE PHOTOGRAPH

Editor's note — We publish in full below a letter from a Vietnamese resident in France, telling his views — to which we subscribe — on an JIO's (Journalists' International Organisation) World Press Photo high prize and first prize photograph.

To the Editorial Board of SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

I am a Vietnamese resident in France of long standing. Daily and hourly I turn my thoughts to our cherished country. I read with eagerness every piece of news and articles related to the situation at home. I deeply feel the joy of victory of our people and armed forces in the South, as well as their suffering and hatred caused to them by the shocking crimes of the Americans and their henchmen. That is the reason why I wish to express here my indignation, the indignation of my family and of other Vietnamese residents, over a picture that I chanced to see on **The Journaliste démocratique** (May 1969).

The photograph by AP correspondent Edward T. Adams, shows Nguyen Ngoc Loan, the executioner of the South Vietnamese people, firing almost point blank at one of our compatriots captured in the course of generalized offensives and uprisings. It was taken, the paper notes, the very moment the bulled entered the head of the victim whose hands were tied behind his back and whose tear-twisted face bespoke fright. As to Nguyen Ngoc Loan, he betrayed no emotion. My blood boiled when I looked at the picture My children and my friends shared my feeling.

I can hardly realize the merit which has earned the shot a high prize and a first prize from the JIO's World Press Photo. It doesn't seem to me a great achievement for an American correspondent possessing a sophisticated camera and a pass of the US-puppet authorities to move freely anywhere in Saigon, at a time when summary executions of patriots are common occurences. What's the message of the picture? Is it an indictment of Nguyen Ngoc Loan's dastardliness an attempt to intimidate South Vietnamese guerillas or a piece of sadistic sensationalism? It's hard to believe that the reporter had any strong feeling against the Saigon butcher, still less any sympathy for South Viet Nam resistance. All becomes clear from the caption: "Summary execution. Brigadier General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, South Viet Nam Police Chief, executes a leader of a Viet Cong sapper unit during the fighting at Cholon. It was announced later that the victim had killed a South Vietnamese policeman some minutes before he was captured. The picture was taken the moment the bullet reached the head of the victim."

About the photographer's stand there is not a shred of doubt. In his eyes our fighters are just "Viet Cong sappers" whereas the criminal Nguyen Ngoc Loan is a "Brigadier General" and "Police Chief". What considerations prompted the journal of the JIO, of which the South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association is a member and one of the Vice-Presidents, to award the first prize to such a picture and publish it in its pages?

I sincerely thank the JIO and **Le Journal Democratique** for their support to the struggle of our people and that of the South Viet Nam patriotic and democratic journalists. I cannot help, however, feeling shocked by the said paper award to E.T. Adams and its reproduction of his picture.. I am of the opinion that progressive press must serve the emancipation of mankind and the oppressed peoples from the domination of native and foreign rulers. There should be no mistake about which side it stands with. Unfortunately in this case, the JIO attitude is far from clear.

It is in all sincerity that I have expressed the above views, and I do hope that the Editorial Board of SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE will pay appropriate attention to what has given rise to them.

Faithfully yours

HUYNH TRUNG THANH

Hectic activity on "the second front"

IN these days of August, American holiday-makers are streaming to summer resorts. On TV screens and the front-pages of newspapers, the American propaganda machine, deceptively flashed screaming titles: "Lull in the War", "Phasing out of 25,000 GIs", "Nixon Changes Asia Policy", etc. As the American rulers and financial magnates live in fear of "hot summers", they leave no stone unturned in their endeavour to deceive and placate the people.

But in this latter part of the 20th century, what used to be the "silent generation" has entered the political lists. Right-minded Americans, stirred to action by the Vietnamese people's resistance to American aggression, have taken to the street to protest against the policies of the White House.

The American people are frustrated and angry. Many reasons prompt them to besiege the White House and the Pentagon even in these hot summer days: poverty, unemployment, inflation, soaring prices, housing crisis, crime and hooliganism in the cities... Their wrath is especially directed against Nixon's military spendings in Viet Nam and the fat profits being reaped by firms connected with the Apollo program. In an anti-war desmonstration on August 13, a young couple pushing a pram with their child in it held high a sign reading: "Is the moon worth the life of a child?" Meanwhile thousands of demonstrators besieged the Century Plaza in Los Angeles where the three Apollo 11 astronauts were being feted, to show their dissent against the squandering so far of 34,000 American lives (the official figure, far below the true losses) and scores of billions of dollars, and against Nixon's persistent prosecution of the war.

The United States is now in exactly the same situation as on June 27, 1968, when Nixon flayed Johnson and sought to replace him at the Presidency: The US, he said, is shaken and in disorder, bewildered by crime, stunned by assassinations confused and angered by a wave of violent demonstrations. Nixon was referring to the mounting anti-war feeling, which matched every step of "escalation" by the Pentagon hawks.

These past few years, the actions taken by Americans to support the South Vietnamese people's resistance to American aggression, for national salvation, have increased many times over. A "second front" against American aggression has taken shape right in the United States.

The "second front" has grown more and more active. While the American war maniacs rack their brains to find the most effective techniques and weapons of mass massacre to be used against the Vietnamese people, the American people devise one ingenious form of action after another in their fight for peace. Proof of it is the 1967 Bratislava meeting between our American friends and ourselves. The American people are proud of our struggle and strive to step up their support to VN drive to the same level as the battle in Viet Nam itself.

This summer, Nixon is not even comfortably cool in his summer White House. His ears are rent by angry shouts: "Hands off Viet Nam!" "Bring GIs home!" More than 10,000 American holiday-makers have left their resorts to besiege Nixon's summer residence and protest against the "withdrawal" of 25,000 GIs" farce.

America may be able to "conquer the moon" (!) but it is now a madhouse, and the American rulers are in full discomfiture ove

(Continued on page 9)

A GI dissenter with a Nixon mask in an anti-war demonstration

Saigon students in Japan preparing for anti US-Thieu action.

Photo: Japan Press

THE WORLD YOUTH MEETING FOR THE VIET NAM'S FINAL VICTORY

THE World Youth and Students Meeting for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese people opened on August 25 in Helsinki, the Finnish capital.

This meeting was attended by more than 600 delegates of 13 international organisations and 174 national organisations of world youth and students.

Nguyen Van Tien, deputy head of the SVNR delegation at the Paris conference was among the guests.

Both Southern and Northern of Vietnamese Youth and students delegations led by Tran Van An and Luu Minh Chau respectively heartily welcomed when enterred the meeting hall.

A. Elenius Finnish Financial Minister, on behalf of his government delivered a speech of welcome to the delegates at the meeting. He stressed: The Finnish progressives will do their utmost to bring material and spiritual support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for their survival and the future. Not only we, he said, but all peace and progress forces in the world support the Vietnamese people for their struggle is one for peace and human progress.

A. Alenius emphasized that broadest circles in Finland demand that the US withdraw from Viet Nam and stop impeding the progress of Paris conference.

The President of the International Federation of Democratic Youth, A. Oliva, talked about youth and student activities in the world for support to the Vietnamese people. He said: We are meeting here to manifest our firm resolve to support the Vietnamese people. We support their stand unreservedly. We are convinced that on the basis of the ten-point overall solution of the NFL, the struggle of the South Vietnamese people will end in triumph. We acclaim the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR as a historic event for all progressive forces and a new victory of the Southvietnamese people.

Mr. Oliva's speech ended amisdt enthusiastic applause and cries of: "Long live Ho Chi Minh", "Long live Viet Nam", "Long live the NFL".

In his speech, Tran Van An denounced the crimes perpetrated by the US imperialists against the Southvietnamese people and condemned the Nixon administration for stubbornly pursuing and intensifying its war of aggression and maintaining the Thieu-Ky puppet administration to carry out its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam.

A Super "Silver Swallow" page 6

Produce with plough in one hand and rifle in the other page 9

SOUTH VIET NAM No 43 September 2, 1969

Published by the NFL Information Commission

Printed in SOUTH VIET NAM Index 12 520